

REPUBLICANS DETERMINED TO BALANCE BUDGET

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, former Prime Minister Rabin of Israel once said, "Politicians are elected by adults to represent the children." Children do not vote, they do not respond to political polls, but they ultimately are the ones who will be helped or hurt by what we do here. That is why we are determined to get our financial house in order and balance our Federal budget within 7 years, save our trust funds, particularly Medicare, from bankruptcy, and transform our social and corporate welfare state into an opportunity society.

For our children we are determined to balance our Federal budget within 7 years, with or without the support of the President.

We are doing it by increasing spending. EITC goes up from \$19.8 to \$27 billion. School lunches go up from \$6 to \$8 billion. Student loans go up from \$24 to \$36 billion. Only in America and only in this place when you spend more money do people call it a cut.

DEMOCRATS READY TO DO THE PEOPLE'S WORK

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, all across our Nation, millions of Americans wake up every day, go to work, and do their jobs.

Sometimes it is tough. Some days it would be easier just to stay home.

But our people do it. Because it is a duty, you might even call it a contract.

Well, the Members of the House of Representatives also have a duty, a contract, to do our jobs.

And our job is to pass administration bills on time and keep our country running so veterans and seniors and students and families get the services they pay for and deserve.

Well, for all the Republican talk about a Contract With America, this body has failed spectacularly in honoring its contract to do our job.

Let us be clear—Government is closed—and people are suffering—because the Republican Congress cannot do its duty and pass these bills.

On the Democratic side of the aisle, we hear the alarm clock, and we are ready to do the people's work.

I hope my friends on the other side of the aisle are ready to rise and shine and do something more than talk about a contract.

A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I received a copy of a letter written by a senior citizen and businessman who lives in Seattle. It is addressed to President Clinton, and this is what he wrote:

When you were elected President, I felt issues you addressed in your campaign, such as balancing the budget in five years, were important.

Let me interject, Mr. Speaker, that the President now says that balancing the budget by 2002—10 years after his election—is unacceptable.

The writer goes on:

At the age of 62, I qualify as one of those you are trying to scare, but I can count . . . You speak of "huge and horrendous cuts in programs" which, in reality, will increase at well over the rate of inflation.

Please settle down, and without posturing, deal in a thoughtful way with our budget problem. . . . Even the poor, old, infirm and students will benefit from lower interest rates. . . .

Your posturing and inflammatory scare rhetoric may, in the short-run, accomplish some objective, but history will not treat anyone well who fails to lead us out of the mess that years of excessive spending has created.

Mr. Speaker, that says it all.

CLEAN CR BEST HOPE TO END BUDGET BATTLE

(Mr. REED asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I call today on the Republican leadership and my President to resolve the current shutdown of the Federal Government. The livelihood of many Americans and the stability of our Nation's political system demand as much.

I have heard from many Rhode Islanders who are upset and confused. They may all have different concerns, but they all share a common question—why did this happen?

Rhode Islanders realize that the current impasse did not have to occur. They understand that the House is behind in its work. They know that instead of passing appropriations bills in a timely, responsible manner, this House has been playing politics.

Each year this House has the duty to establish priorities and appropriate the funds to meet them. There are 13 such bills and they are supposed to be sent to the President before the start of the fiscal year.

Regrettably, this House, and, in particular, this new Republican leadership failed in this task. Instead of seeking bipartisan support for a fair, balanced budget, the Speaker crafted an extreme plan that included unnecessary cuts in essential programs like Medicare and education. More importantly, Mr. Speaker, this failure shut down the Government.

Balancing the budget is important, but there can be no progress in this environment of hostility. The majority has failed to get the appropriations

bills to the President. Now, they must be responsible and end the shutdown. A clean continuing resolution is the best and only solution. Moreover, it would provide the only real framework for the bipartisan solution the American people want.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to do the right thing and end this game.

RESOLVING THE BUDGET SHOWDOWN

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this whole budget showdown boils down to one question—why won't the President do what he promised and help balance the budget? This showdown is not about one side wanting to furlough Federal employees. This is about character, this is about trust, this is about our children, this is about our future as a nation.

The American people can no longer shoulder the burden of debt that the Federal Government is placing on them year after year after year. We now have a \$5 trillion debt. We spend over \$200 billion every year just to pay interest on this debt. The irresponsibility has to stop. Period.

Our President said he would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget.

We challenge the President to end the excuses and end the gimmicks. We encourage him to keep his promises. He should not be keeping us from keeping ours.

GETTING ON WITH THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, only one thing good has come out of this shutdown. It has exposed the extreme agenda of the Republican Party. What are they doing? What are they proposing? To raise Medicare premiums on seniors, gut environmental regulations, gut worker safety laws, gut health rules for food inspection, gut education, gut student loans, and let us remember, we would not be in this crisis if the Republicans were doing their job. Ten of 13 appropriations bills have not yet been sent to the President that were supposed to have been sent by October 1.

It is easy to see that the Republican leadership has provided this crisis in order to blackmail the President to accept their extreme agenda. Let us listen to what some of the leaders said just a few months ago.

The chairman of the Committee on the Budget: "If we close down, people will listen."

The Speaker: "The President will veto a number of things and we'll put